



Sustainable Transportation Plan Advisory Committee

Date: Wednesday, May 26, 2021

Time: 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Location: Conducted via Remote Participation

In attendance: Mike Rademacher, Heather Barber, Darcy Devney, Daniel Amstutz, Julie Wayman, Doug Mayo-Wells, Len Diggins, Rachael Stark, Kristine Shah, Ezekiel Wheeler, Phil Goff, Jenny Raitt, Petru Sofio.

Minutes [DRAFT]

1. Welcome and Introduction to Remote Meeting, including Ground Rules.

Daniel Amstutz read a set of prepared remarks explaining the procedures that the Committee would follow to hold a virtual meeting. Governor Baker signed an Executive Order in response to the COVID-19 pandemic allowing virtual meetings, which suspended the usual Open Meeting Law requirement that a quorum of committee members be physically present in order to hold an official committee meeting. Amstutz confirmed the committee members in attendance for the meeting.

2. Approve minutes of November 6, 2020, December 16, 2020, and April 7, 2021.

All minutes were approved by the committee.

3. Connect Arlington Final Draft Recommendations and Strategies.

- a. Review final plan updates and revisions based on committee comments and staff review; report on discussions with Select Board members.

Amstutz went over a variety of revisions to the Strategies & Implementation portion of Connect Arlington since the last committee meeting. These include formatting updates, making the document accessible, revising some of the strategies to be clearer, and other edits. The transportation priority graphic in the Executive Summary has also been revised.

Additional outreach on the final plan has been conducted over the last several weeks. This has included one-on-one conversations with Select

Board members, who have been very supportive and asked good questions. The goal is to bring the plan to the Board for endorsement in June, after Town Meeting is complete. Amstutz noted that the Select Board endorsement is very important for the plan to support the overall vision and goals but does not mean all the individual projects are approved; details of specific projects or changes would still require Board approval. Staff also met with the Master Plan Implementation Committee in late April who were also supportive of the plan.

Amstutz went over next steps for plan implementation and noted projects underway already that are identified in the plan: safety improvements to Chestnut Street and Mass Ave/Appleton Street, the Minuteman Bikeway Planning Project, and the Mystic Valley Parkway to Minuteman Bikeway project (to be funded by MassTrails). Other high priority implementation items include a Vision Zero Policy, the Complete Streets Prioritization Plan, Neighborhood Traffic Calming, pedestrian crossing guidelines, and the Local Transportation Improvement Program (LTIP).

The committee discussed how the Connect Arlington plan will be implemented and project priorities, including the LTIP and current ongoing projects that staff are working on. It was noted that there would still need to be process and project development completed to make changes that require Select Board approval. In general, the plan for implementation is to utilize existing committees to get the work done, such as the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) and Bicycle Advisory Committee (ABAC). The Master Plan Implementation Committee (MPIC) would also have a role as they would like Connect Arlington to be used in place of the transportation section of the Master Plan. Jenny Raitt discussed how the MPIC does their implementation and forms working groups to look at different parts of the Master Plan. The committee also discussed the need to focus on pedestrians in the plan and implementation, and if a separate committee structure would be needed. It was noted that several committees do similar work and it may simply be a matter of expanding the types of work they do. The TAC was discussed as a possible avenue for focusing on more pedestrian-related issues, with guidance from the Select Board.

There are some corrections to the plan committee members noted, including typos on the bike facility map that need to be made before finalization. The committee discussed adding a goal to be a higher-level Bicycle Friendly Committee and look for other designations, such as Walk Friendly Community, that help highlight the Town's successes and how to make improvements. It was noted that much of what is in the plan should help the Town get more recognition from these programs.

- b. Vote to endorse final plan.

Phil Goff moved to endorse the Connect Arlington Sustainable Transportation Plan and send it to the Select Board for their endorsement, and to include a section about striving to get higher-status designations such as Gold-level Bicycle Friendly Community and Walk- or Transit-Friendly Community as applicable. Rachael Stark seconded the motion. The committee voted unanimously to endorse the plan.

4. Next steps for plan implementation.

The committee discussed next steps in the last agenda item.

5. Adjourn.